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Message Text

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67
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01

OMB-01 /195 W
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R 101507Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5494
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 0708

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, GB, IV, CF
SUBJ: PRESIDENTS OF IVORY COAST AND CONGO VISIT GABON

1. SUMMARY. IVORY COAST PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY CONCLUDED SEVEN-DAY VISIT TO GABON JUNE 7. POLITICALLY MODERATE AND WARMLY FRATERNAL JOINT COMMUNIQUE NOTED TWO NATIONS' IDENTITY OF VIEWS ON MAJOR AFRICAN AND WORLD PROBLEMS, STRESSED COMMON INTERESTS IN EVOLUTION OF SITUATION IN PORTUGUESE-AFRICAN COLONIES, MUTUAL DESIRE FOR JUST PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST, AND SUPPORT FOR OCAM AND OAU. A MIXED COMMISSION FOR COOPERATION WAS FORMED AND THREE COOPERATION ACCORDS SIGNED. HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY CALLED FOR A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER FOR THIRD WORLD INSURING MORE EQUITABLE PRICES FOR PRIMARY PRODUCTS. CONGOLESE PRESIDENT N'GOUABI JOINED HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY AND BONGO FOR ONE-DAY TALKS JUNE 6. END SUMMARY.

2. GABON HOSTED IVORY COAST PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY JUNE 1-7. IN AIRPORT WELCOMING SPEECH, PRESIDENT
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BONGO REFERRED TO HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY AS THE "WISE MAN

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OF AFRICA" AND SUBSEQUENT MEDIA COMMENTARY PLAYED UP
"OLDER BROTHER-YOUNGER BROTHER" RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
TWO LEADERS AS WELL AS HISTORY OF CLOSE TIES BETWEEN
TWO NATIONS. HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, ACCOMPANIED BY
HIS MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, JUSTICE, PLAN, SCIENTIFIC
RESEARCH, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND EDUCATION, SPENT FIRST TWO
DAYS OF VISIT IN USUAL ROUND OF RECEPTIONS, WREATH-LAYING,
RECEIVING KEY TO LIBREVILLE, THEN DEPARTED FOR INTERIOR
TOUR TO PORT-GENTIL, MOANDA, AND FRANCEVILLE.

3. IN MAJOR SPEECH IN FRANCEVILLE, HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY
CALLED FOR CREATION OF A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER FOR THIRD
WORLD. SPECIFICALLY HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY RECOMMENDED
"VIGOROUS ACTION" COMPARABLE TO THAT OF OPEC WHICH WOULD
INSURE TO MEMBERS OF THIRD WORLD MORE EQUITABLE PRICES
FOR THEIR PRIMARY PRODUCTS. FURTHER HE PROPOSED TO HALT
"DETERIORATION IN TERMS OF TRADE" BY HAVING THIRD WORLD
NATIONS TRANSFORM THEIR PRIMARY PRODUCTS INTO FINISHED
AND SEMI-FINISHED ARTICLES. FINALLY, HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY
INSISTED UPON NECESSITY OF CREATING "NATIONAL CADRES"
CAPABLE OF PUSHING FORWARD INDUSTRIALIZATION.

4. JOINT COMMUNIQUE AT CLOSE OF VISIT NOTED
"PERFECT IDENTITY OF VIEW" CONCERNING MAJOR AFRICAN
AND INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS AND UNDERLINED NECESSITY
TO RESOLVE CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS WITH PASSION AND
WITH DISCERNMENT AT A MOMENT WHEN WORLD IS IN MIDST
OF ECONOMIC AND MONETARY CRISIS. RE: SPECIFIC INTERNATIONAL
ISSUES, TWO PRESIDENTS AGREED:

A. TO FOLLOW WITH INTEREST EVOLUTION OF SITUATION IN
AFRICAN TERRITORIES UNDER PORTUGUESE DOMINATION WITH
EMPHASIS ON THE NECESSITY OF THEIR LIBERATION.

B. TO SUPPORT CREATION OF JUST PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST
AND TO DEMAND GREAT POWERS DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO
FIND EQUITABLE AND DEFINITIVE SOLUTION TO PROBLEMS OF
PALESTINIANS.

C. UPON DETERMINING ROLE OF THE TWO COUNTRIES WITHIN
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OCAM AND RENEWED THEIR SUPPORT FOR OAU.

5. IN BILATERAL REALM JOINT COMMUNIQUE REASSERTED
EXISTENCE OF FRANTERNAL BONDS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES AND
NOTED SIGNATURE OF ACCORD CREATING MIXED COMMISSION FOR
COOPERATION AND THREE FURTHER ACCORDS COVERING CULTURAL,
COMMERCIAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATION.
COMMUNIQUE ENDED WITH MUTUAL PRAISE OF EACH PRESIDENT,

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PARTICULARLY FOR THE ECONOMIC PROGRESS IN EACH NATION.

6. CONGOLESE PRESIDENT N'GOUABI JOINED GROUP IN FRANCEVILLE FOR ONE-DAY TALKS JUNE 6 WHICH WERE DESCRIBED HERE BY PRESS AND OTHER SOURCES AS CENTERING ON ECONOMIC MATTERS, PARTICULARLY PRIMARY MATERIALS.

7. COMMENT. HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY VISIT PRODUCED NO SURPRISE AND WAS ALMOST ROUTINE EXERCISE IN FRANCOPHONE MUTUAL SUPPORT AND ADULATION.
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